



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5535

LCO No. 2314



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF A PATIENT'S OBSERVATION
STATUS AND NOTICE CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF
THOSE WHO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE AND COUNSELING
SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Each hospital, as
2 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall provide oral
3 and written notice to each patient that the hospital places in
4 observation status of such placement not later than twenty-four hours
5 after such placement. Such oral and written notices shall include: (1) A
6 statement that the patient is not admitted to the hospital but is under
7 observation status; (2) a statement that observation status may affect
8 the patient's Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance coverage for (A)
9 hospital services, including medications and pharmaceutical supplies,
10 or (B) home or community-based care or care at a skilled nursing
11 facility upon the patient's discharge; and (3) a recommendation that
12 the patient contact his or her health insurance provider or the Office of
13 the Healthcare Advocate to better understand the implications of
14 placement in observation status.

15 (b) The written notice described in subsection (a) of this section shall
16 be signed and dated by the patient receiving the notice or such
17 patient's legal guardian, conservator or other authorized
18 representative.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Except as provided in
20 subsection (c) of this section, each outpatient provider of health care
21 services or counseling services shall provide written notice to
22 recipients of such services concerning the qualifications of persons
23 providing such services on behalf of the provider and a description of
24 the services provided.

25 (b) The notice required by subsection (a) of this section shall
26 include: (1) A description of the services offered by the provider; and
27 (2) a list of the licenses, certifications and other professional
28 qualifications relating to the services offered for each person employed
29 by, or volunteering services for, such provider. If an employee or a
30 volunteer for such provider does not possess a license, certification or
31 professional qualifications relating to the services offered, such notice
32 shall contain a statement of that fact. For providers that primarily
33 provide such services in a facility, the notice described in this section,
34 shall be posted in a prominent place in the facility that is accessible to
35 persons receiving services. For providers that provide such services in
36 locations outside of a facility or in a facility other than one in which
37 such entity is based, a representative of the provider offering services
38 on behalf of the provider shall give written notice of the
39 representative's licenses, certifications or other professional
40 qualifications relating to the services offered or a statement that such
41 representative possesses no such license, certification or qualifications.

42 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to inpatient health
43 care facilities, home health care providers, federally qualified health
44 centers or entities offering religious services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require hospitals to provide patients with notice of placement in observation status and to require providers of health care and counseling services to provide notice of their qualifications and a description of the services provided.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]